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COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1119

Monday, *the* *2nd August 1943* / *17th Karkadagam 1118*

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (A.F.W. D ESQ., C.I.E., I.C.S.) in the Chair.

Messrs. Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, L. M. Pylee, K. T. Achyutan, T. P. Poulose and Walmesley were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

54. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state whether Government propose to constitute an Economic Development Board and if so will the Government announce the proposed personnel?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The question is under the consideration of the Government.

INJURY TO FOOD CROPS BY CATTLE AND BIRDS

55. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government are aware that year after year great injury is done to food crops by cattle and domestic birds;

(*b*) whether Government will devise rules for making the owners of cattle and domestic birds fully responsible for preventing them from damaging other peoples' crops and by making derelictions cognisable offences, by giving the police power to seize all stray and unattended cattle and domestic birds and by giving village courts power to decide all cases for compensation for destruction of crops by domestic animals and birds?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* (*a*) Yes, Government are aware that some damage is done to food crops by cattle and occasionally in some parts by domestic birds.

(2) The matter has already engaged the attention of Government. Section 26 of the Cattle Trespass Act has been extended so as to make it applicable to all kinds of cattle and the penalty leviable has been enhanced to Rs. 50. The question of increasing the number of cattle pounds to secure a more efficient working of the Act is also under consideration of Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to note that fencing materials have decreased tremendously in the Cochin, bamboo, thorns, etc.?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Foresis):* My impression is that it has not decreased.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Has the price of fencing materials gone up tremendously high?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Not tremendously. But it has increased.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to note that on account of the increase in the cost of barbed wiring which is being stolen away it is impossible to prevent these from damaging the crops?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Foresis):* I may be permitted to explain Sir, that I only referred to the ordinary forest materials for fencing. I did not refer to barbed wire fencing.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the price of cadjans?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In these parts, it is 14 annas per bundle.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What was the price some six months back?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There was a time when it was 14 annas. It went down just about 2 years ago. But before that, there were many years in which it was 14 annas.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to consider anew the scheme put forward in this question to prevent cattle trespass?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* We have already considered these and orders were passed very recently, and if you want that we must still consider them, we will see to it.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is there any method to prevent damage by birds?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is very difficult and impracticable.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planter):* Is there no method of preventing trespas by domestic birds ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If anything is suggested we will consider. To have cages, it is impossible.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Then simply give us power to eat them. I am very serious.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I am also serious. The question of having cages was the only thing that suggested itself to us. It is impossible.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With regard to that last answer Sir, namely that if you suggest anything we will consider, it is not expected from the Government. Could not the Government think of something themselves ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* We thought of cages. That was found to be rather difficult.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I point out to the Hon'ble Member for Revenue that these Europeans who bring and grow domestic birds here always feed them and maintain them in their own runs. Are the Government aware of that ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will you prohibit the rearing of domestic birds in their foul runs? This is a matter which you have to copy from them. I am suggesting a remedy.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In view of the domestic Indian birds, the suggestion is not practicable.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether it is difficult in the case of ducks ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peisekar):* "Domestic birds" are the words used.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN—LEASES UNDER

56. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state,—

(*a*) what is the extent of land for which leases were taken from parties up to date under the "grow more food" campaign of Government;

(*b*) are all the lands in (*a*) now under cultivation ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* (*a*) Lease deeds have been taken for an extent of 6,655·36 acres up to the end of Edavam 1118.

(*b*) No definite answer can be given now as no systematic inspection of the lands leased has been conducted to find out the exact acreage actually cultivated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether any portion out of this 6,655 acres taken on lease last year is lying fallow now?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The answer to this is implied in the answer already given. We have not conducted a systematic survey.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In such cases, if there are lands taken on leases but not cultivated, will the Government be pleased to cancel the lease and give them to persons who are prepared to cultivate them ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There is absolutely no objection for that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to extend this principle to lands previously taken by various parties and to a very large extent left uncultivated ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If you are meaning patta lands and not leased lands, then of course we have another provision. This aspect was also then considered.

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